



# FY16-20 CONSOLIDATED PLAN INFORMATION SHEET

*For direct email notices, please add your name, email, and interests to sign-in sheet.*

- Look for updates and upcoming meetings at [www.newtonma.gov/conplan](http://www.newtonma.gov/conplan)
- Submit comments and questions to [conplan@newtonma.gov](mailto:conplan@newtonma.gov)

OR

- Call the Planning Department at 617.796.1120

OR

- Write to the City of Newton  
c/o Department of Planning and Development  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459  
Attn: Consolidated Plan

For general updates on all Planning Department activities, sign up for our Friday Report at [maiser@newtonma.gov](mailto:maiser@newtonma.gov) with a blank subject line and subscribe fridayreport in body.

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**Space for Notes**

## **Important Terms/Acronyms**

**ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act** – The Law that prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government programs and services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.

**Affordable Housing** – Household housing costs do not exceed more than 30% of household income.

**Allocation** – Amount of CDBG, HOME, or ESG funding Newton receives each year from HUD.

**AMI – Area Median Income:** HUD uses the median income for households to calculate income limits for eligibility in a variety of programs. HUD estimates the median household income for an area in the current year and adjusts that amount for different household sizes so that household incomes may be expressed as a percentage of the area median income, e.g. Households earning up to 80% of AMI.

**Annual Action Plan** - A document that details how the City of Newton and members of the consortia in which Newton participates will allocate CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

**CAPER/Annual Performance Report – Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report:** A document that provides an analysis on the previous fiscal year's performance as it pertains to the administration of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds.

**Citizen Participation Plan** – A document that outlines the City's responsibility for providing opportunities for active citizen and program beneficiary participation in the administration of federal funds.

**CDBG – Community Development Block Grant:** HUD program that provides funds for affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, accessibility and neighborhood improvements, and human services (nonprofit programs benefitting people with LMI).

**Consolidated Plan ("Con Plan")** – A document written by the City of Newton describing the needs of residents with low and moderate incomes, outlining strategies to meet these needs, and listing all resources available to implement the strategies. This document is required in order to receive CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds.

**ESG – Emergency Solutions Grant:** HUD program that attempts to prevent homelessness for people facing housing instability and provides support for shelter services.

**HOME – HOME Investment Partnerships Program:** HUD program that provides funding for the development of affordable housing and leverages private sector participation.

**HUD – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:** The federal department that allocates CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds to the City of Newton.

**LMI – Low to Moderate Income Household:** A household having an income equal to or less than the service income limit established by HUD.

**Needs Assessment** – Process to evaluate the needs of Newton's low- and moderate-income residents in the areas of housing, homelessness and community development through data collection and citizen participation.

**Public Hearing** – A formal open meeting to receive public testimony.

**Strategic Plan** – A document used to communicate the City's goals, the actions needed to achieve those goals, and all of the other critical elements developed during the planning process.

**Target Neighborhood** – Portions of Villages that are eligible for neighborhood improvements. These neighborhoods, as defined by the U.S. Census, have the greatest concentration of LMI.

**Learn more or contact us:** Web: [www.newtonma.gov/conplan](http://www.newtonma.gov/conplan) Email: [conplan@newtonma.gov](mailto:conplan@newtonma.gov)

## **Frequently Asked Questions - CDBG**

### **CDBG – What is it?**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the nation's eighth largest federal domestic program, provides funding for a wide variety of activities in more than 1,000 communities across the country. Since 1974, CDBG funding has allowed communities to design locally viable programs to provide safe, affordable housing, suitable living environments, and necessary public services and facilities for low- and moderate-income persons and families.

### **How does Newton benefit?**

Over the life of the program, CDBG funds in Newton have provided critical human services to more than 5,000 low- and moderate-income Newton residents per year, rehabilitated more than 1,500 homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners, developed more than 730 units of affordable housing, made accessibility improvements in 119 public facilities, improved 83 Newton roadways, improved more than 36 playgrounds and parks, and provided economic development loans and grants to 17 Newton businesses. CDBG funding has had a far-reaching effect in supporting the growing and ever-changing needs of our city.

### **How much CDBG funding does Newton receive?**

Newton has received \$58 million since 1989 and has leveraged millions more in private and public sector dollars, making precious CDBG dollars stretch even further. In 2013, the City of Newton received approximately \$1.76 million in CDBG funds.

### **Are CDBG funds used throughout the City, or only in specific neighborhoods?**

Most of Newton's CDBG funds are used to help low- and moderate-income residents throughout the City. Two exceptions to this are the neighborhood improvement and economic development programs. Since these funds benefit a particular neighborhood and not a specific person with a low or moderate income, these program funds must be used in the areas of the city with the highest concentration of low and moderate income people. Currently, these Target Neighborhoods include portions of Nonantum, Newton Corner, Newtonville and West Newton.

### **How is the use of CDBG funds determined?**

Every five years the City works with Newton residents, citizen advisory committees, the Planning and Development Board, as well as other groups and organizations to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan. The Plan documents Newton's housing and community development needs, outlines strategies to address those needs, and identifies proposed program accomplishments. Each year the City develops an Annual Action Plan that lists the specific projects to be undertaken during the program year. Both the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan must be approved by the Mayor prior to being submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### **How can a Newton resident get involved with the CDBG Program?**

In order to ensure citizen participation in the CDBG program areas, a number of citizen advisory committees have been created, with members appointed by the Mayor. These advisory committees make funding, programmatic, and policy recommendations to the Planning and Development Board, which then makes recommendations to the Mayor. To become more involved, contact Alice Walkup at [awalkup@newtonma.gov](mailto:awalkup@newtonma.gov) or 617-796-1125.

The City of Newton expends CDBG funds on a wide variety of projects and programs benefiting low- and moderate-income residents. Funds are currently spent on six program areas: Housing Rehabilitation, Housing Development, Human Services, Neighborhood Improvements, Architectural Access, and Economic Development.

Number in Household	80% of Area Median Income	50% of Area Median Income	30% of Area Median Income
1	\$47,150	\$33,050	\$19,850
2	\$53,900	\$37,800	\$22,650
3	\$60,650	\$42,500	\$25,500
4	\$67,350	\$47,200	\$28,300

*HUD releases income limits on an annual basis. Historically, increases 0 – 5% per year.*

- Acquisition and disposition of real property
- Clearance
- Homeownership assistance
- Rehabilitation and preservation
- New housing construction by Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)
- Economic development activities
- Public facility improvements (to certain extent)
- Accessibility

- Buildings used for general conduct of government (except when removing architectural barriers)
- General local government expenses
- Political activities
- Purchase of equipment
- Operating and maintenance expenses
- Income payments (e.g. food, clothing, housing payments to an individual or family)

Maps are available online that provide a visual representation of important indicators in Newton. Check out the Mapping Tool on our webpage or visit [egis.hud.gov/cpdmaps/](https://egis.hud.gov/cpdmaps/) to make your own maps!

